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Justice

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
(ILGWU)

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Justice (Vol. 36, Iss. 1)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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Keywords

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

Comments

Justice was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

Aug 11

Maiden Form Bra Co. Volunteers Hours Cut

130,000 Won 35-Hour
Week in Last 6 Months

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JUSTICE

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

Vol. XXXVI, No. 1

Jersey City, N. J., January 1, 1954

Price 10 Cents

**1,000 Delegates Gather in Chicago
For Start of 28th ILGWU Convention**

N.Y. Rainwear Wins 35 Hours

Mack Kahn Strikers Solid

**19 Coast Firms Ringed
By ILGWU Picket Lines**

**LEGISLATION IN TWO
ST. PAULS WOVEN
TO REVERSE MARCH**

**WALDMARK FIRM
TOLD TO PRODUCE
BUSINESS IN PUBLIC**

**MAIDENFORMERS NEW
BENEFITS TOTALING
\$2 FOR \$1 IN DUES**

**ORGANIZING GAINS
CHALKED UP BY U.S.
MONTHLY UNIONS**

**N.Y. Skirt, Dressmakers Up Wages; Undie Union
Wins 35-Hour Week as Wage-Hour Drive Rolls**

25,000 in Tots' Togs, Bras Win 35-Hr. Clause

**NORTHEAST LOCALS
GO INTO ACTION ON
POLITICAL PROGRAM**

**CONVICT PUTTERMAN
FOR BRIBING MACK
TRIAL KEY WITNESS**

BREAK GROUND FOR ILG HOUSES

184-85 Victory Caps Campaign at Wal-Mart

**N. Y. Corset Local
Wins 35-Hr. Week**

The ILGWU Year

A review of 1953 events
in the union, the nation
and the world.

—Page 2

GEB Censures Phila. Wildcat

ILGWU Census Hits 430,830 Peak

**Perfection Co. Agrees to
Pact, Raises; Strike Won**

**Coffers' Campaign Mobilized
For Huddy and Liberal Team**

**Administration Trounces
Commies in 2 Key Local**

**Dubinsky in Group
To Examine Puerto
Rico Wage Scales**

**Bloomfield Massillon Shop
Unionized; Cleveland Next**

**4,800 Be
Join?**

**JAPANESE DYING
WITH THESE HANDS
WIRE DISTRIBUTION**

**61,000 in N.Y.C. Clerk
Shops Awarded Raise**

Facing 1954

Seven ILGWU experts in
a needle's eye view of the
shape of things to come.

—Pages 6 and 7

STACK 3

The IGVW Year LARGEST in 1953

January



Liberal prospects with Congress look pretty bleak for 1953 as the new Republican-controlled House and Senate organizations take shape. GOP-Discart coalition immediately kills any hope of decent fair employment practices legislation by jettisoning the Senate filibuster rule. . . . Heres Big Business Cabinet appointees get beat-in, set vote, obtain Senate confirmation. . . . 18,000 transport workers striking in New York and Philadelphia via 40-hour work.

Payment of first pension checks to 799 additional garment workers brings IGVW retirement rolls to near-10,000 total. . . . Clearing begins at site of IGVW House in New York's large East Side. . . . Contract renewal sets wage hikes for 1,500 in Massachusetts. . . . "Cen Exista Manen," Spanish-language version of "With These Hands" is premiered in New York. . . . Bailing begins in local union elections.

February



AFL Executive Council gives ILA until April 30 to clean up racketeering on the New York waterfront. . . . IGVW Federation. . . . Council also warns of depression in 1954 unless workers' income keeps pace with rising productivity. . . . Labor disappointed over Eisenhower's State at the Union meeting, which smacked of GOP reaction. . . . President cuts all wage and salary controls and says price controls will not be renewed.

Communists overwhelmed as IGVWers cut bullets in tri-annual union election. . . . Incumbent administrations receive mounting votes of confidence. . . . Chicago embroilers with retirement fund. . . . Vice Pres. Louis Wallberg calls for establishment of international fair labor standards in speech to ILO conference in Geneva. . . . Organizing drive launched in New York shirt and sportswear industry. . . . Hundreds in St. Louis certain trade win wage increases.

March



Big Business character of GOP government becomes more apparent when Administration says it will make no recommendations on revising Taft-Hartley. . . . Meanwhile, barrage of anti-labor decisions from Supreme Court continues. . . . Senate and House Interior Committee okay off-shore oil grab for coastal states. . . . Judiciary Subcommittee sympathetically hears Chamber of Commerce attack International Labor Organization. . . . In the light of rising cost of living, AFL and CIO urge the extension of rent controls after April 30. . . . NLRB made 1953 decision at Seaport in Oklahoma. Union gains in new balloting, moved out by four votes, challenges result. . . . ILO ceases share union membership is 428,323, up 7,500 in a year. . . . Philadelphia Dress Jans Board starts mop-up against unionism fringe. . . . AFL chief George Meany cites ILO fight on workshops in House committee hearings on Taft-Hartley. . . . New York dem-parade in 1952 topped previous year, joint board reports.

April



Backlogs in progress: House votes to kill public housing and to end rent controls earlier than asked. . . . Coastal states voted pictures glowing as action to end which labor groups had urged, be earmarked for aid to education. . . . Social security picture glowing as action to end it is killed by the government's new study-and-do-nothing program.

Wage gains, organization, political activity stressed in three-year report prepared by IGVW for submission to convention. . . . IGVW set new mark in "March of Dimes" donations with total contributions of \$152,314, topping all other labor groups. . . . 14,000 bloomers in Greater New York area in wage increases. . . . IGVW wins NLRB election at Ashland Crafts in Kentucky.

May



Republicans' great "moral crusade" begins to shape up: Senate Labor Committee comes out with series of proposals for making 7-11 law even tougher on labor. . . . Budgets for Labor and Health, Education and Welfare Departments cut. . . . The signs away coastal oil. . . . Home financing goes up a big notch. . . . AFL Executive Council rejects ILA "cleanup" report and authorizes an AFL-CIO no-raiding pact.

Twenty-third IGVW Conventions held in Chicago. Delegation call for universal establishment of 35-hour week. . . . General wage increases, and determined organizational and political activity. . . . Pres. Dulinsky re-elected. . . . Front-hills elected new vice president. . . . Assembly hears talk by George Meany, Sen. J. Lee Rankin and Robert Humphrey. . . . Adolf Berle, Alex Ross. . . . 61,000 New York cloakmakers win wage boosts on arbiters' order. . . . 35 complete first group to retire in Chicago. . . . Arbitration yields increases for 5,000 in Los Angeles.

June



Top AFL and CIO officials reach agreement on two-year no-raiding pact, beginning Jan. 1. . . . UN-ILO report substantiates charges of widespread slave labor in Communist countries. . . . 1,250,000 steelworkers win 8½-cent-an-hour pay boost and wipe out north-south pay differential. . . . U. S. delegates to ICFTU Congress in Stockholm expose Soviet "peace" drive. . . . Workers rebel against Communist rule in East Germany.

New York underground workers become first affiliate to fulfill 35-hour week mandate of convention. . . . Compacting increases maintain pay standards. . . . Negotiations yield wage boosts for 90,000 dress, skirt and sportswear workers in New York. . . . Skirt pact sets up impartial chairman machinery for first time. . . . Benefits paid out this month total \$1,000,000. . . . Third Training Institute class graduates after year's study. . . . Principle of arbitration in New York cloak industry adopted by Supreme Court. . . . Leland Tapp, 38-year member, organized in Troy, N. Y.

July



Omar Becu of Belgium succeeds Vincent Tremen of England as ICFTU head. . . . Air Force contracts cancelled, 12,000 UAW members laid off at Kaiser-Fraser plant. . . . Sen. Robert A. Taft dies of cancer. . . . Maurice J. Tobin, 55, Truman's Secretary of Labor, dies of heart attack. . . . Keited in Congress' rush for adjournment are old education, civil defense, public housing, RPT and the Labor Department's Wage and Hour Division.

Philadelphia firm which withdraws from employers' association is held by state Supreme Court to be obligated to arbitrate disputes for duration of association's contract with union. . . . New York shirt makers, Local 32, celebrates 50th anniversary. . . . Kansas City cloakmakers awarded wage boosts by arbiters. . . . IGVW leads \$100,000 in Raisers' Union in strike against Hat Corp. of America. . . . Corset and bra makers workers in New York win 35-hour week. . . . 1,000-seat theatre planned for Unity.

August



Living costs jump again as the Administration fails to keep its pledge to control inflation. . . . 60,000 telephone workers strike against the Bell system in Indiana and six other states. . . . Indiana Justice approves so-called "right to work" laws which ban the union shop. . . . Korean true brings repeated pleas from labor for government and private planning to avoid a depression.

Union affiliates press forward in drive for 35-hour week. . . . New York workers, 10,000 Philadelphia cotton and children's dressmakers, plus 10,000 in Fall River, Mass., and Pennsylvania win reduced work week. . . . Wage boosts granted Baltimore cloakmakers and Kansas City sportswear and dress workers. . . . Bloomfield Co. of Ohio announced first time in 50 years as Canton shop goes IGVW. . . . 1,000 employees of Mack Kahn Co. in New York and Pennsylvania walk out for full union recognition.

September



Darwin quits as Secretary of Labor, charges he resigned on promise to present an already-prepared message to Congress recommending 19 liberalizing changes in Taft-Hartley. . . . Truman speaking at Labor Day rally in Detroit charges GOP with reviving policies that led to the great depression of the Thirties. . . . AFL convention votes to kick out racket-ridden Longshoremen's Association and charter a new union. . . . Dulinsky reports to General Executive Board meeting that 250,000 members received wage boosts, 75,000 had hours cut, since convention. . . . IGVW wins 6-1 to NLRB decision on Ouellet Knitwear Mills in South Carolina. . . . First Vice Pres. Leif Ainslie celebrates 70th birthday. . . . 400-year year of service in labor movement. . . . New York Railroad, New Jersey Washburn Dress, Philadelphia Alteration workers join 35-hour week. . . . Drivers launched in organizing shipping clerks of New York Dress Industry.

October



Eisenhower policies slapped with election of labor-bagging Lester Johnson as first Democratic Congressman from Wisconsin's Ninth District. . . . Cost of living soars higher. . . . Little chance of food price drop in 34. . . . Secretary of Agriculture Benson says. . . . James P. Mitchell appointed new Secretary of Labor.

New York IGVW swing into political battle behind Liberal Party, Ticket of Malley, Canale, Melles welcomed by all affiliates. . . . Jersey locals support Mayrart, Williams in their races. . . . Mack Kahn workers in Pennsylvania vote IGVW. . . . NLRB poll held at two Mills plants in Connecticut. . . . Frame-up against Los Angeles IGVWers began in court. . . . Park featuring "guarantee of employment" clause is signed with Carter Co. of Massachusetts. . . . Second Bloomfield shop in Ohio fails to unionize. . . . Start of pensions in Eastern Region Retirement Fund and announced. . . . 35-hour week set in Garment Industries of Illinois, Philadelphia belis.

November



House Subcommittee continues drive to undermine social security. . . . GOP strongholds crumble in the wake of Democratic sweep in mid-year national and local elections. . . . High cost of living still breaking record. . . . ILO turns down Russia's proposal to join organization on her own terms.

Grand election turns first shovelful as ground is broken for IGVW House in New York. . . . Pacific coast cloakmakers, Farout City Manufacturing Co. workers, Gossard Carpet Co. employees win wage boosts. . . . Latier also get 35-hour week. . . . Liberal Party draws its biggest Mayrart vote in New York City contest. . . . ILO-supported candidates sweep in victory in New Jersey. . . . Waterfront Unemployment of Connecticut organized after 78 years of non-unionism.

December



Supreme Court rules state courts may not issue labor injunctions in matters coming up under federal law. . . . GOP "Moral Crusade" string-placed hearings on social security. . . . 400 shoe-makers get solid support from all other CIO and AFL unions in the industry in 11-day strike against New York carpenters. . . . Ops and down in the labor scene at year end: layoffs up, hirings down, wholesale prices up, factory payrolls down. . . . 12,000 New York children's dressmakers and 12,000 employed out of town on work supplied by New York jobbers win 25-hour week in contract renewals. . . . All New York cutters new on 35-hour week. . . . Louis Dworkin, 68, 90 manager, dies in New York. . . . IGVW wins re-election victory, 141-0, in NLRB balloting at Waterbury Manufacturing Co. in South Carolina. . . . Keller-Kohn Co. of Cleveland locks out employees. . . . Multi-plant pact signed with Appleton Bros. Co. . . . Malden Fur voluntarily cuts hours.

Major Bra Renewals Extend 35 Hrs. to 5,000

Maiden Form Voluntarily Gives Up 40-Hour Week for Change to 35 Hours

Agreements calling for the establishment of the 35-hour week in the plants of the Maiden Form Brassiere Co. and the Exquisite Form Brassiere Co.—giants in their industry—were reached last week after negotiations conducted in the office of Pres. David Dubinsky.

The contract with Exquisite is a renewal covering close to 1,000 workers employed in plants in New York City, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Virginia, West Virginia and Alabama. Vice Pres. Louis Stullergers participated in the negotiations.

The agreement with Maiden Form—reached while a contract negotiated last March still had more than two years to run—covers more than 3,000 workers employed in six plants in New Jersey and in three plants in West Virginia. Vice Pres. Israel Horowitz aided in the negotiations. Both agreements follow the formula for multi-plant contracts announced last September by the General Executive Board of the ILGWU. In both instances the pattern already set for the corset and brassiere industry is followed by calling for a reduction of the 40-hour week to 37½ hours as of Jan. 4, 1954 and by providing for a further cut to 35 hours within the next two years.

With each of these reductions in hours, wage increases, which the end will total 13 per cent, are to be paid to the workers so that they will, at first, earn as much in 37½ hours as they did heretofore in 40; and then, when the second reduction to 35 hours is made they will earn at least as much in 35 hours as they formerly earned in 40.

Both agreements provide unusual aspects of collective bargaining. In the case of Exquisite, union negotiators were able to get the firm to agree to extend coverage of the contract to plants it operates in the South and which already employ about 700 workers. These plants are located in Jasper, Ala., Elmore, Va., and Portsmouth, Va.

A rare case of enlightened management policy was provided by the Maiden Form firm, which negotiated a three-year contract with the ILGWU in March, 1953, two months before the 28th ILGWU Convention made it mandatory for all affiliates to sign agreements only

if they provide for the 35-hour work week. The Maiden Form pact, with more than two years to run, provided for the 40-hour week.

According to Pres. Dubinsky, this is the first time in his experience that a firm has voluntarily surrendered a major advantage over the rest of the industry.

"Our relations with this firm have always been conducted in a cordial and enlightened spirit," he said. "We have at all times recognized the justice of the company's request that it be treated no worse,

from its point of view, than the rest of the industry. Now we have turned the tables on the company and asked that it apply the same equal formula so that Maiden Form workers be treated no worse than those in the rest of the industry.

"I am delighted that this time the company recognized the justice of our claim. In voluntarily and freely surrendering its advantage the firm has shown a rare spirit of industrial cooperation and enlightened management-labor relations," Pres. Dubinsky concluded.

Cleveland Cloakmakers Strike Keller-Kohn, Charge Lockout

Cleveland cloakmakers have declared a strike against the Keller-Kohn Co. of that city which they charge has locked them out and moved its production to Baltimore. Keller-Kohn garments are being made in the Dupkin cloak plant in Baltimore.

A committee representing the 325 child, the head of the successor Keller-Kohn firm.

A committee from the Baltimore shop has conferred with Pres. David Dubinsky. Earlier last week, a committee from the Cleveland shop met with him. Both groups were advised regarding the union issues involved. Baltimore workers, including those formerly employed by the Dupkin firm and now working for Keller-Kohn, have in the past demonstrated their loyalty as unionists and will adhere to the principles of unionism despite minor "formation" being spread by their former employer as well as by their new activist, Roth-

child, the head of the successor Keller-Kohn firm.

24-Hour Picketing Continues As Nachman, Peace Try Fails

Two hundred striking employees of L. Nachman and Son of Philadelphia have been assured by Pres. David Dubinsky of the continued support of the ILGWU until their employer agrees to negotiate in good faith.

For the last five weeks, the workers have maintained 24-hour picket lines at the company's premises in a fight for job security and against deterioration of their work stand-

ards, according to Manager William Ross of the Philadelphia Dress Joint.

Little last month, in an effort to settle the dispute, Federal Mediator

Anna Weinstock of the U. S. Department of Labor requested Pres. Dubinsky to help work out a formula for ending the walkout.

The ILGWU chief immediately arranged for a conference at the union's General Office in New York with the head of the firm and representatives of the joint board. Though the firm either rejected or gave evasive answers to union proposals at this session, it appeared, nevertheless, that a settlement was within possibility.

Accordingly, Pres. Dubinsky suggested that Manager Ross and the employer meet again the next day to iron out details of a settlement. However, after more than ten hours of talks between union and company representatives, negotiations, in which Pres. Dubinsky participated, were broken off when the firm announced it would not agree to a written contract unless the union consented merely to accept the employer's oral word on any of the pertinent points at issue.

The Nachman firm, manufacturing cotton dresses under the brand name "Spitz," had been operating a union shop for the past 11 years in its two plants, one, producing the cotton garments, employing members of Locals 11, 43 and 218. The other, a stitching shop, employed members of Local 11.

While the stitching plant was covered by the collective agreement with the Embroidery Manufacturers' Assn., the joint board heretofore had been unable to obtain a written contract for the dress shop. However, a verbal agreement had been in effect for some time, and until recently the firm had been recognized as the union and lived up to provisions of collective contracts prevailing in the industry.

For the past several months, the union has sought to conclude a written pact with this firm. However, (Continued on Page 10)

Early Bird



For the second straight year, New York Local 155, Knitgoods Workers, was first affiliate to complete and return scrolls with names of donors to "March of Dimes." Louis Nelson (left) local manager, hands check for \$7,000, representing contributions of Knitgoods workers, to Executive Secretary Frederick Umhey, head of AFL committee in charge. Last year the local donated \$7,000.

ILGWU ASSISTS HAT STRIKE IN NORWALK WITH \$250,000 LOAN

The ILGWU has made loans totaling \$250,000 to the United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers International Union. It was announced last month. Of this amount \$100,000 was advanced a few months ago by the General Office of the ILGWU; the additional \$150,000 was made available to the hatters by ILGWU locals and affiliates.

Announcement of the loan was made by Alex Rose, president of the hatters' union which is now in the 25th week of its strike against the Hat Corporation of America in South Norwalk, Conn. The company makes Knox, Dobbs, Dunlap and Cavanaugh hats.

About 1,500 members of the hatters' union are threatened with the loss of their jobs. The company has moved part of its production out of South Norwalk and planned additional shifts of men and materials.

According to Pres. Rose, the workers are fighting for full job security. The strike has cost the union \$400,000. The Hat Corp. has raised through a \$500,000 union bond issue distributed among the 25,000 employed members of the union who are also contributing \$100,000 a month as a special strike assessment.

"A Little Child..."



Christmas Cheer on Wings of Song — ILG Style



Garment workers chorus in Kansas City, Mo., gives out with rousing renditions of traditional Christmas melodies in preparation for annual performance held during recent holiday season.

N.Y. Cloakmakers Seek Rise In Retirement Contributions

The New York Cloak Joint Board has asked employers in the coat and suit industry for an early start of negotiations for the collective agreement, in order to expand financial resources of the retirement fund, General Manager Isidore Nagler reports.

At a meeting held Dec. 23, the board decided to request employer associations to meet with the union and begin talks two months sooner than required.

In a communication to the associations, Nagler noted that under normal circumstances, the negotiation of the contract, which is to expire at the end of May, would not take place at this early date. The serious problem facing the industry with regard to its retirement fund, however, has prompted the union to act now in order to secure additional revenue for the fund, so that it may be able to retire all qualified employees.

The Retirement Fund of the Coat and Suit Industry, the pioneer venture in the field of industry-wide employer-financed pension plans for workers, was established 10 years ago, and has pensioned close to 6,000 cloakmakers since 1944. At the time the fund was established, all the parties to the collective agreement accepted the obligation of providing those workers who had contributed substantial service to the industry and wished to withdraw from work with a minimum of security in their declining years.

Vice Pres. Nagler pointed out that these principles have been adhered to in an exemplary fashion, with the cloak fund serving as a model for

others to emulate. It is one of the soundest funds in existence, for it has over \$100,000 put aside to guarantee every worker who has retired his 665 monthly pension for the rest of his life.

Since the fund is operated on a sound actuarial basis, the number of people to be retired each year must be based upon the annual income of the fund, which is derived from employers' contribution of 3 per cent of payroll. While the industry was prosperous, there were less applications for retirement than the fund's income would have permitted. In the last few years, as a result of adverse conditions in the industry, more have requested retirement than normally would have. The fund's annual income, therefore, was not sufficient to retire more workers than its quota permitted, and retirement of ten for a number of applicants consequently have been postponed.

In his letter to the employers, Nagler further explained that the joint board had urged approach them at this early date concerning renewal negotiations because, in view of the fund's rules and regulations providing that retirements are to take place in January of each year, the matter cannot be postponed.

The cloak chief stated that it is material that this problem be met rapidly so as not to protract a situation which may later cause unnecessary unrest in the industry. He called upon the employers to meet with the union now in order to discuss renewal of the collective agreement and to make appropriate provision for the retirement of those workers who have asked to be retired.

Liters were sent to the Industrial Council of Coat, Suit and Skirt Manufacturers, Merchants' Ladies' Garment Assn. and the Infants' and Children's Coat Assn.

Slash Hours for 1,800 in Upper N.Y., Vermont

'Twas just before Christmas, and all through the shops, workers won raises, and hours took drops. However, not Santa's reindeer but union contract renewals brought these gains to some 1,800 workers employed in plants throughout Upper New York and Vermont, according to District Superior Max Wester.

At Putnam Manufacturing Co. in Whitehall, N. Y., 200 workers on children's coats had their hours slashed to 35 a week, with time-and-a-half paid for all additional work, and obtained a 4 1/2 per cent compensating wage increase. At the same time, the employer agreed to contribute 5 per cent of payroll for a retirement fund, and hourly minimums were raised.

At Kerskey Knitted Superior Sweater in the negotiations. Establishment of the 35-hour week was provided for in new pacts negotiated with Berkshire Dress Co., Berkman, N. Y.; 113 workers; Little Dress Co., Little Falls, N. Y.; 100 workers; Osewoda Dress Co., Osewoda, N. Y.; 170 workers; and Martin-Jay Dress Co., Amsterdam, N. Y., 100 workers. Time-and-a-half will be paid for overtime in

All instances, and employees received compensating pay boosts of 6 per cent.

Hours were reduced for 200 workers at the Warner Brothers plant in Malone, N. Y., producing brassieres James Beause avoided in negotiations a renewed contract as this firm, which also grants a general wage increase of 6 1/2 per cent and boosts all piece rates by 5 cents an hour.

Northeast Department Director David O'Connell and District Supervisor Wester joined in talks that resulted in a new agreement covering 123 workers employed in three plants of the Albert Rosenblatt Co. in Rutland, West Rutland and Poultney, Vt. Besides a cut in the work week, Rosenblatt workers also obtained a wage rate of 8 per cent and a boost in the hourly minimums.

Republican Ranks Are Gloomy As Party Diverges on Program

WASHINGTON—Gloom reigns in the ranks of Republicans here as they gather to see Year I of the new year out and wonder if that is the correct word for their melancholy forbodings! Year II. In public, a stiff upper lip is the rule, and top hats have replaced the Hamburgers with which the Eisenhower era was inaugurated. But behind the GOP, the city slickers and the backwoodsmen, appear to expect nothing but bad news in 1954, touching its lowest depth in November.

The main trouble is that the New Year celebrants are unable to save on their list of resolutions. Shall the party for Congress try to cut small step forward, or several lengthy strides back? The ideal solution, of course, would be to stand still—but the slow but steady erosion of popular support, feared for Eisenhower and for his party, rules out that alternative course of inaction.

The people, it seems, expect a program. What shall it be? In spite of the widely advertised White House conference of Republican Congressional leaders, there is no genuine agreement on this.

Eisenhower would like to see a Taft-Hartley crash to the unless, the Midwesters want to catch down and get out of fair share work from the wage earner. The economists of the Administration, seeking a dejection in the air, want to get out for a big public works program; the reformers in Congress will have no part of this.

Back of all the Republican Party's troubles, of course, is its own state of schism—schism—in politician's language, a split personality bordering on disunity. The President was quite right to consider this his major problem. Where he has gone astray, political observers believe, is in the way he has sought to solve it.

The President has now rounded out his first year. He began it with unprecedented power in his hands—both because of his landslide electoral majority and because of the impressive nature of his party and because of his unique personal popularity, which cut right across the traditional party lines. For a few weeks, perhaps even for a few months, he had it within his power to reshape the Republican Party. He might even have made it what the United States has long needed, a responsible conservative party.

Instead, he frittered away his promise in dogged but futile efforts to convince the backbenchers to line ranks. When the situation called for the sort of leadership Americans have expected of their President, he followed the textbook maxims he had learned in his civil service course. Eisenhower would like to reshape the Republican Party. He might even have made it what the United States has long needed, a responsible conservative party.

New, very late in the day, he seems to have decided to reverse field. The new Eisenhower is first unveiled when he endorsed the reluctant measure introduced by John F. Kennedy. McCarthy's domination of American foreign policy. It may be further revealed in his message to Congress, detailing his legislative program for the coming year.

There exists in both the Senate and the House a majority quite willing to go along with a sensible, middle-of-the-road program, both at home and abroad. But this majority is bi-partisan, composed of the minority of reasoners and Republicans of most Democrats.

Last year, the President could have had this majority for the asking. In 1953, a highly political year, it will be embarrassing for Eisenhower to seek Democratic support, and difficult for the Democrats to give it to him.

Moreover, by launching his attack upon President Truman and his Administration for allegedly harboring subversion, Attorney General Brownell has greatly embittered the Democrats. The feelings aroused on both sides by this sordid episode have run so high as to make cooperation in most fields all but impossible.

It seems likely that sensible men on both sides of the aisle will first come together in the field of foreign policy. The Democrats, fortunately, retain much of the sense of responsibility which they acquired during 20 years of power. Many of them feel very strongly that partisanship should stop at the water's edge. In times as grave as these, they feel, Americans should present a united front to the Soviet empire.

The President, and even some Secretary of State Dulles, seemed at first to open this political atmosphere. Although they are departing very far in fact from Truman-Acheson foreign policy, the Eisenhower Administration sought desperately to give it a new look. Republican leaders are still beating that, by lifting the purely domestic blockade of Germany, they will in action show the results of events including the East Berlin riots and even the death of Stalin.

The Democrats very properly feel that, if the Administration is wise enough to follow Democratic foreign policy, it should cease pretending that it is not. They also feel very strongly that bi-partisanship in foreign policy cannot exist unless the Administration calls in for consultation responsible leaders of the opposition when major foreign policy moves are being planned.

As this crucial year of 1954 opens, no step that the Administration could take could improve the American people with more confidence and hurt the Communists more than the re-establishment of genuine bi-partisanship in the foreign policy of the United States.

300 IN SAN FRANCISCO WIN 35-HOUR WEEK

The 35-hour work week is new reality in the San Francisco night wear and miscellaneous trades. This agreement with the International Union of Leather Goods Workers, a 3 per cent increase, a 5 per cent increase in minimum wage scale by the same amount and increasing employers' payments to the health, dental and vacation funds by 1 1/2 per cent. The pay increases and the reduced hours will go into effect on Jan. 1, 1954.

Vice Pres. Jennie Mathers of the Mathers Co., which the contract has been revised considerably to aid in enforcement of the provisions.

JUSTICE

International Labor Garment Workers Union

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130,000 Have Won 35-Hour Week Since June

One hundred and thirty thousand garment workers have had their work week reduced as the result of a campaign started last June, according to the findings of a year-end survey announced by David Dubinsky, president of the ILGWU. The union's national convention last May made it mandatory for all ILGWU affiliates to sign new collective agreements or to renew old ones only if they provide for the establishment of the 35-hour work week. When the campaign started a little more than six months ago, Pres. Dubinsky explained, 218,000 members, or 95 per cent of the total ILGWU membership of 230,000, had been working on the 35-hour work week. Of the 130,000 who have since had their work week shortened, 50,000 are employed in New York and 80,000 in other areas and markets. Among the 80,000 non-New Yorkers, 20,000 have made the change directly from a 40-hour week to the 35-hour week; the remaining 60,000 are making the change in two installments, dropping first, to the 37½-hour week for a year or two and then cutting down to 35 hours.

Seventy-nine per cent of the ILGWU, close to 236,000 garment workers, are employed under agreements which provide for either the 35-hour week or 37½ hours with the commitment to reduce to 35 hours within two years. In New York, the shift of 20,000 garment workers to the 35-hour week means that 85 per cent of the ILGWU membership in that city is now working on that basis. The remaining small number of mem-

bers, chiefly in accessory branches, as well as about 10,000 in other parts of the country and Canada, must await contract negotiations before they can make the change. Six months ago only 71,000 ILGWU members outside of New York were covered by a 35-hour clause; by the end of 1953, and on the basis of an immediate or early change, this number had been more than doubled to a total of 127,000. In all instances the 35-hour work clause has been won through collective bargaining and without resort to strike in even a single case, Pres.

Dubinsky pointed out. He added that the reduction in hours has been accompanied by agreed adjustments in wages sufficient, at least, to provide for the same earnings in the shorter week as was formerly received for the longer period. The ILGWU president also noted that the main effect of the drive to establish a universal 35-hour week in the tailors' garment industry will be to stabilize production in all garment markets. He noted that a uniformity of the work week will tend to remove a basis for unfair competition.

Dressmakers Honor Krawetz, Manager of Affiliated Dept.



Julius Hochman (right) general manager of the New York Dress Joint Board, gives a "Happy Birthday" handshake to Meyer Krawetz, manager of joint board's Affiliated Department, at party marking Krawetz' 60th birthday last month. Mrs. Krawetz is at left.

Friends and co-workers of Meyer Krawetz, manager of the Affiliated Department of the New York Dress Joint Board, gathered on Dec. 11 at an informal reception, held in the office of General Manager Julius Hochman, to mark Krawetz' 60th birthday.

Krawetz is a former dress operator who has served as price adjuster and business agent, having taken his first union post in 1925. In 1948 he succeeded Rose Minsky as head of the Affiliated Department.

That office in the joint board derives its name from the fact that it is concerned with the employers and the shops that turn out higher priced garments and who are members of the Affiliated Aims. "These firms," says Krawetz, "are the style leaders of our industry. They set the pace for the entire industry and it is only a question of time as to when all other ranges in the industry adopt the styles they set. Some of these firms will spend as much as \$200,000 a year to create their new line."

Krawetz remembers that only 20 years ago, when the ILGWU was rebuilding its strength, the garment industry of America was almost completely dependent for style on Paris.

"In these 20 years," he says, "our industry has experienced many changes. We have developed our own designing talent which is fresh, original, resourceful. We have, as a union, pressed for greater efficiency in production so that our members can share in a greater return for their work."

"The industry itself is developing larger shops, even in higher price ranges; the young people coming into our sample and production rooms bring with them eagerness, skill in the crafts and skills of the trade."

"What remains to be done are the uncertainties of this business, its extreme sensitivity to economic psychology and economic fluctuations and the need for constant vigilance against the temptations some

Notice to N. Y. Members

After Dec. 31, 1953, you will have to have a 1954 medical service envelope in order to maintain medical benefits at the Union Health Center. These envelopes, obtainable at your local union office, are good for the entire calendar year of 1954, except for members of the following locals: 20, 82, 91, 99, 100, 132 and 154. These members, whose envelopes become void June 30, 1954, will have to exchange them after that date for new ones valid from July 1 to Dec. 31.

Appleton Named As New Manager Of N. Y. Local 99

The executive board of Local 99 has named Shirley Appleton as manager of the COBES and Distribution Employees' Union to complete the term for which the late Louis Dworkin was elected to serve Appleton will be officially installed at a general membership meeting of the local to be held early in March. Appleton came to the ILGWU in 1940. His service in the union was interrupted by overseas service with the U. S. Air Force during the war years. He took up duties with Local 99 again in 1946 when he became a business agent. In the past two years, during the period in which Manager Dworkin was ailing, Appleton served as assistant manager.



TORONTO SPORTWEAR PACT RENEWAL NETS TWO-WEEK VACATION

Despite an attempt by employers to reduce union standards by citing "hard times" as a legitimate wedge, Toronto Sportswear Workers Local 189, have won an additional week's paid vacation, Manager Sam Krajaner reports.

Under terms of the renewed agreement, beginning Jan. 1, 1954, each employer will contribute 4 per cent of his gross weekly payroll toward a vacation fund for all union members in his employ. Workers will be paid for two weeks' vacation a year, computed on 4 per cent of their earnings.

Remaining to be decided by the impartial chairman are such issues as: an increase in the number of paid legal holidays; advance health insurance for cutters and special machine operators; and provisions for establishing a retirement fund.

Cloak Health Jubilee

Manufacturers soon will join cloakmakers in celebrating the 10th anniversary of the union's health and welfare fund. Currently the cloak trade is negotiating on price settlements for the spring season.

Italian American Labor Unit Asks 5-Power Trieste Talks

An appeal to President Eisenhower to instruct the Secretary of State to oppose, at the coming Berlin Conference, any move by the Soviet Union for a so-called internationalization of the Trieste territory, was voiced in a resolution adopted at the annual conference of the Italian American Labor Council, held in New York City Dec. 15.

The council, with ILGWU First Vice Pres. Luigi Antonini presiding, urged further:

That the Trieste position be maintained and a just solution be reached through negotiations with the American, British, French, Italian and Yugoslav governments;

That the United States take the initiative in pressing for the immediate admission of the free republic of Italy into the United Nations.

In two other resolutions the council called for the withdrawal of troops in Trieste, the reaffirmation of Italian loyalty to the Atlantic Alliance and UN protection of the rights of minorities in Trieste after a solution is reached.

Noted the "dangerously tense" labor-management picture in Italy and resolved to bring to the attention of the proper agencies the "uncompromising attitude" taken by Italian employers who ignore legitimate rights of Italian workers.

In keeping with the organization's impressive record of assistance to worthy causes, the conference voted a contribution of \$5,000 for relief of flood victims in southern Italy, sent to General Secretary Giulio Pastore of the free trade union confederation Cisl, for distribution, and \$500 additional for construction of the Carlo Trussa Pavilion at the FDM Marine Trade School in Mondello, Italy.

Guest speaker at the conference was Jay Lovestone, executive secretary of the Free Trade Union Committee of the AFL. Those attending also applauded messages

from Pres. David Dubinsky and Sen. John Kennedy of Massachusetts. Antonini, the re-elected president of the council, also elected were Edward Molinari, first vice president; Joseph Proprio, Alberto Campobasso, Serafino Romualdi, and Anthony Valente, vice presidents; John Gelo, treasurer; Howard Molinari, secretary and a 30-member executive committee.

Activities of the Italian American Labor Council in 1953 included programs of relief for needy Italian institutions, the enhancement of free trade unionism in Italy, assisting labor groups in the Italian elections and social service.

Twentieth Century Shop in Scranton Joins Union Ranks

Another shop joined the growing ranks of the union in the Scranton, Pa. District with the recent organization of the Twentieth Century Manufacturing Co. According to District Manager Harry Schindler, an impressive majority of 20 workers employed by the firm signed ILGWU membership application cards at a union meeting held Dec. 22.

The Twentieth Century shop produces cotton dresses for the New York City firm, "Cotton Club." As the firm has joined the Pennsylvania Dress Manufacturers Association its agreement with the union will provide terms of the master contract applicable to all member firms of the association. The new ILGWUers will be covered by all union benefits effective immediately.



Affirming Italian-American Friendship



Luigi Antonini, ILGWU first vice president and newly-re-elected head of Italian American Labor Council, addresses recent session of council which voiced opposition to internationalization of Trieste and called for five-power talks on area's status. Council also voted \$5,000 for relief of flood victims in Italy. Seated are John Gelo, council treasurer; Emma Lucchi, council Vice Presidents Joseph Proprio and Alberto Campobasso; guest speaker Jay Lovestone, head of ILGWU International Labor Relations Department; and Howard Molinari, secretary.

FAIRPLAY

WE face 1954 in a period of great change and uncertainty. The shape of things to come—at home and abroad—is not clear. Yet, it is developments in international affairs, in domestic policy, in government action that will ultimately determine conditions in our own industry upon which the welfare of garment workers depends.

JUSTICE has therefore called on seven ILGWU experts to fathom the immediate future. These authorities are not fortune tellers and they were not asked to predict the precise timetable of the next 12 months. What was requested from them was a needle's eye view of developments in their respective fields, the hope being that if we could discern the path along which we have moved in the past year it might become easier to anticipate its direction in the next period.

Ours is a most sensitive industry. It serves as a barometer of national prosperity and confidence. Its workers are directly affected by changes in public policy, in taxation and social security. In different degrees they feel the impact of international hostilities, of political rivalries, the economics of defense, labor law, technology and politics.

Here, then, are the experts' estimates of coming events in those fields most likely to shape the lives of garment workers in the next 12 months.

Nation Prospers But GOP Clouds Economy's Future

By

LAZARE TEPER

ILGWU Research Dept. Director

TWELVE months ago, as 1953 was born, this nation was enjoying a high degree of prosperity and economic stability. While defense production was rapidly approaching its peak and spending for military purposes was leveling off, the slack was being taken up by an expansion of production and employment in the civilian sector of the economy.

At the same time a degree of uncertainty was created by the policies of the new Administration in Washington. For the first time in two decades, Republicans were back in power. Many who remembered the depression days of the Hoover Administration took this as a danger signal.

Suddenly the decline in living costs was reversed as price and rent controls were lifted. From the low point reached in February, consumer prices rose steadily, reflecting a rise of about 2 per cent in living costs by the end of the year. Rents were the fastest cost-of-living item to rise and soon tensine throughout the nation found themselves paying around 1 1/2 per cent more to their landlords.

Meanwhile the "hard money" policies adopted by the Administration forced increases in interest rates. In turn, this helped to put a crimp into business expansion and residential building and remodeling. The slowdown in these activities compelled the Administration to reverse itself on interest rates, but not before damage had been done.

Nonetheless, the momentum of the American economy is not easily stopped. To a considerable extent free trade and fair deal legislation continues to provide many important props for American social and economic welfare.

A powerful labor movement persists on its unswerving course of justice and enhancing the purchasing power of the great mass of Americans through collective bargaining. Their continued prosperity and well-being is the major stabilizing force in the country.

But not all industries have been equally prosperous. Even in areas where there has been expansion, gains in 1953 have been considerably lower than in previous years. However, the overall levels of activity have remained high. Even though the total production of goods and services declined somewhat during the second half of 1953, the output still exceeded that of 1952.

While the general employment picture was only slightly modified, the drop in the demand for auto, aircraft and heavy electrical goods hit the steel production and touched off increases in unemployment in those industrial sections of the economy.

The uncertainties of the economic scene had their effect on garment production. In the first half of the year it fared about as the record for the corresponding period of the same recent past. But in the second half of the year it fell behind.

In part this was due to the unseasonably mild weather. Consumers postponed clothing purchases. Some sales of winter wear were irrevocably lost. This was reflected in smaller orders and lower earnings in the shops.

In spite of difficulties and uncertainties the nation emerges from 1953 in a prosperous condition. Tremendous accumulation of purchasing power in the hands of the consumer have served as a buffer against reverse, providing the means for absorbing the goods and services of American industry.

But the challenge remains the formulation of government policies which will neither hamper nor destroy the ability and the desire of the American people to buy ever increasing quantities of the commodities they produce.

Congress Election Gets Top Billing In Political Year

By

GUS TYLER

ILGWU Political Director

THE political battles of 1953 will be fought in the Congressional contests this November.

Every member of the House of Representatives and one-third of the United States Senate will be up for election.

Political forces in Congress are in such delicate balance that a slight change in the party composition of either the House or the Senate can mean a major swing in control of committees and the legislative calendar.

At present, the Republicans have a majority in the Senate only because Wayne Morse of Oregon, a so-called Republican who has thrust "Independent" has agreed to vote with the GOP to organize the Senate. In the House of Representatives the Republicans enjoy an unassailable margin of some four seats out of 435. A slight gain by the Democrats in either body, this November, can throw the controls to them.

Such a shift could have important consequences for the country as a whole. Facing the Congress are major issues which have already engaged Republicans in hot debates among themselves.

Among farmers and in areas directly dependent on farmers' earnings, the big issue is price support.

In industrial areas the issues that must be settled involve the Administration's failure to make good its pledge to amend anti-labor features of the Taft-Hartley law, the continuing rise in the cost of living, the various soft spots in employment that have developed in the national economy.

For the nation's older citizens the most pressing issue is the Social Security Act's proposed to freeze raising the tax for Old Age and Survivors Insurance. This jeopardizes the security of old and young alike by threatening to bankrupt the fund upon which all, sooner or later, must come to depend for social security benefits.

The important Congressional elections in November will mean that the nation has been working in recent years during which Congressional committees

and Congress itself have time and again over-riden legislative proposals of the President and have even at times, tended to weaken the President's authority.

Even in the field of foreign affairs, traditionally the area to which the President and his Secretary of State shape basic policy, Congress has shown a growing tendency to usurp the President's authority.

ILGWU members will have important roles to play in the various state campaigns. In a number of states there will also be gubernatorial elections. But it is the Congressional contests which provide the crucial issues. Within the ranks of the Republicans there is disagreement between those who believe that Republicans must face the issues in order to win and those who argue that victory for their side can come only by making "uses in government" the chief campaign issue.

In view of the fact that the Congressional elections this November may become even more important in shaping the future of our country than was the Presidential contest of 1952.

American Unions Must Play Role In Foreign Policy

By

JAY LOVESTONE

Director ILGWU Int'l Labor Affairs Dept.

DURING the coming year, world developments will emphasize the urgency of American labor playing a decisive and distinct role in the international labor movement, in the molding of a consistent, vigorous and democratic foreign policy by the United States, and in the maintenance of world peace and human freedom now so gravely menaced by Communist subversion and Soviet aggression.

Just as the United States has a special role in world affairs today, so does the AFL as American labor's largest and decisive section, and as the strongest affiliate of the ILGWU, have a special role to play in the international labor movement. This is not meant in the sense of "big power" domination. The AFL has always rejected this approach and continues to oppose actively in its relations with other free trade union movements.

It does mean that the AFL must demonstrate dynamic initiative and unremitting drive in breaking with dead dogmas and stabilizing clichés. It must help to develop a positive program of action for defeating Communist totalitarianism and every other form of reaction as deadly enemies of human dignity, democracy, national freedom and international harmony.

We of American labor know best our country and its democratic institutions. We understand best how to eliminate our weaknesses and to enhance the strength of America as a force for freedom, human welfare and peace. This is our duty. Nobody else can do it for us. Such AFL activities are in the best interest not only of the American people and our own labor movement but of the entire free world labor movement and international democracy.

This is not the only form of independent activity that will receive the attention and support of the American labor movement. The American labor movement, the so-called World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)—with which the AFL never had any relations and of which we have always been the strongest and most vocal opponent—has chosen the colonial and semi-colonial territories as its principal field of subversive operations and demagogic propaganda activities.

The United States of America, now national independence through a revolutionary struggle against colonialism. The American labor movement is rooted in the anti-colonialist, anti-imperialist and anti-imperialist struggle. We of American labor have been and should be ready to bear the responsibility of being the pioneer in rallying the international free trade union movement to become the champion of national freedom, most particularly in the form of every form of imperialism—the old nineteenth century type no less than the new Soviet imperialism.

Never before was it as urgent for American labor to be on the alert and to be so active in helping our country develop and consistently pursue an effective democratic foreign policy. Only such a foreign policy will enable it to stifle all expressions of aggression and to fulfill its basic duty to the laboring masses of the world people, world progress and human freedom.

Garments React To Technology Of Other Trades

By
WILLIAM GOMBORG
ILGWU Manufacturing-Engineering
Dept. Director

The major paradox of the garment industry is that, while it experiences only minor changes in its own technology, it feels the full impact of technological changes in other, related fields of industrial activity. This means that the garment trades are affected, economically, by all factors which influence consumers' propensity to buy and, industrially, by what happens in the mills that supply the industry with the fabric it needs and the stores that sell the garments it produces.

In fabric making, the principal development in recent times has been the increasing use of synthetics like nylon, orlon and dacron, both in pure form and as blends with other natural fibers. The chief supplier of these fibers are the chemical giants, such as Dupont, which are able to exert rigid control over the source, supply and price of the synthetic.

Before this development affected the garment trades many firms in that field often found themselves functioning in two capacities: they were manufacturing garments but they were also making a sizeable part of their profits from an expert manipulation of the purchase and sale of the goods. It may be expected that with time the control of synthetic fibers by chemical monopolies will introduce greater rigidities in the price of these goods. The end of this source of speculation will tend to increase the value of production know-how in garment making.

A contrary development is occurring on the retail front. Disregarding the stores which serve as outlets for the garment industry's products have continued a policy of demanding a wide variety of styles to be delivered on almost an immediate basis. Unable to anticipate, even in the short run, the needs and tastes of their customers, most store buyers come to showrooms prepared to place only small orders, convinced that they can return to the manufacturer at later intervals and get quick service in filling small orders.

In the dress' control records this practice may show up as being efficient in the sense of indicating that whatever the store bought it sold. But it falls to show that such over-cautious practices tend, first of all, to relieve manufacturers' costs and secondly to eat retailers' sales.

The development of self-service devices in retailing, along with the growth of chain and branch merchandising as a supplement to the downtown store, presents a promise and a threat. A possible danger exists in centralizing the purchase of garments for retailing in fewer and fewer hands. At the same time such centralizing may result in building that volume of production which is essential to achieving a better organization of the garment industry's production facilities.

Through such better organization, rather than by means of any major, dramatic innovations in technology, the garment industry seeks to keep pace with the changes that surround it in America's industrial community.

Growing Federal, State Restraints Loom for Labor

By
MORRIS P. GLUSHNEN
ILGWU General Counsel

PERHAPS the most important development on the legislative front in 1953 was what didn't happen. There was no changes enacted that the AFL-Harley Act.

After months of drafts, negotiations, meetings, proposals and counter-proposals, Secretary of Labor Martin Dies emerged with what he thought was the Administration's program to liberalize Taft-Hartley. However, instead of getting the expected backing from the President, all he got was a shrug.

Dies' resignation brought to a head labor's growing distrust of the intentions of the real powers in the Republican hierarchy. This feeling persists despite the assumed promise of the Administration

to make some changes in the law at the forthcoming session of Congress.

One reason for this is the apprehension that, whatever the public plans of the White House are, the private plans of Congressional leaders are to negate any improvements in Taft-Hartley by enacting even more restrictive prohibitions than exist. In particular, labor fears Congress will circumvent the recent decision of the Supreme Court in the *Gannett* case, which limited the right of states to forbid peaceful picketing.

Apart from actual legislation, the Taft-Hartley Act now is being "re-interpreted" by the Republican-appointed members of the National Labor Relations Board to the serious disadvantage of labor. Under recent decisions, employers have been given a whole arsenal of weapons to use against labor. Especially ominous is last week's ruling giving employers, prior to representation elections, a monopoly right to make anti-union speeches to workers assembled in the plant as a captive audience, while denying the union a right to reply.

On the state level, labor is threatened by an intensified drive to hamper many of its traditional rights through restrictive laws. This is especially true of the so-called "right-to-work" bills, aimed at limiting union's right to enter into union shop agreements, although even Taft-Hartley gives labor this right.

Even more dangerous has been the increasing spread of state injunctions, which crack down more and more on the right to picket in labor disputes. State courts, frequently in the face of state anti-injunction laws, have taken it on themselves to decide what are "good" and what are "bad" disputes. In many states, despite legislation that was designed to prevent use of injunctions in labor disputes, courts have returned to the old days of rule by injunction.

At this point, little can be anticipated by way of hoped-for state legislation. Forbidding Congressional elections in New York and other states probably will mean that little, if anything, will be passed in the way of new labor laws. Actually, in light of the fact that legislatures have done in the field during the last decade or so, perhaps the less laws they pass concerning labor, the better off workers will be.

Will Tax Changes Benefit Workers Or Big Business?

By
ARTHUR A. ELDER
Director ILGWU Training Institute

WORKERS in the United States have a tremendous stake in changes that may be made in tax laws by Congress during 1954. With total to \$90,000,000,000 being collected in taxes by federal, state and local governments, any increases or decreases in taxes have a very real impact on their standard of living.

The American Federation of Labor maintains that first priority must continue to be given to national defense; no tax cuts should be made at the expense of our defense needs at home or our commitments abroad. However, if projected cuts in defense spending mean tax reductions possible, the AFL urges that first consideration be given to those that are most equitable and will provide major stimulus to the economy.

Excise taxes on liquor, tobacco, gasoline, automobiles, appliances, electrical goods, medicines, telephone, etc., paid to the federal government now total more than \$10,000,000,000 yearly. In addition, consumers pay close to \$5,000,000,000 in sales, excise and license fees to state and local governments. This means that 84 cents of every dollar goes into the pockets of every man, woman and child in the nation for food, clothing and shelter is being collected by government in the form of excise taxes.

Trade unions insist that too high a proportion of the consumer's dollar is being collected in sales and excise taxes. The AFL calls for a substantial reduction in federal excise and "unfairly" opposed to proposals that existing levies be replaced or supplemented by either a retail sales or a manufacturers' excise tax.

The proposed 10 per cent reduction in the personal income tax scheduled by Congress to become effective Jan. 1 is not considered either adequate or equitable by labor organizations.

Present rates on the first \$2,000 of taxable income above exemptions are too high. The cut will mean a \$20 saving to a single man with a \$2,000 income and a \$30 saving to a married couple with \$3,000 income and a \$40 saving to a family of four at the \$4,000 earning level. People in this income group, how-

ever, will still be paying 30 per cent on their taxable income, which is too high, taking into account the \$6,000 personal exemption and the current high cost of living. The rate on the first \$500 of taxable income should be reduced drastically, and rates on each successive \$500 up to \$2,000 should also be decreased to relieve the excessive tax burden on these people.

In the coming year, these are the questions that must be resolved:

Will Congress permit tax reductions resulting in an \$8,000,000,000 loss in revenue to go through without making corresponding cuts in spending?

If tax reductions are made, will they be in a form most beneficial to the economy or will they provide major relief to investors and large scale enterprises, with only minor benefits for low income groups?

Another problem to which union members should give increasing attention is the need for more adequate support of state and municipal services. The rapid war and post-war increase in population has resulted in demands for millions of dollars in new revenues for highway construction, school buildings, hospitals, and a variety of other public institutions and services. States and municipalities have fallen short of meeting these needs by close to \$1,000,000,000 annually for the past five or six years.

Welfare Gains Scored by Union; Government Lags

By
ABDOLAH HELD
Director ILGWU Health and Welfare Dept.

As members of the ILGWU, garment workers in the past year vastly improved their safeguards against illness, the incapacities of old age and the long-range effects of industrial discipline. As they begin to reap the benefits they have witnessed in the last 12 months the gradual development of a serious threat to those welfare gains won in New Deal and Fair Deal Administrations in the drive to restore to all Americans a sense of personal security.

Through their union, garment workers have expanded the scope of their own welfare system, increasing the size of benefits and adding to the numbers of those covered by health, retirement, vacation and maternity benefits.

Conditions of eligibility for retirement have been redefined to remove ambiguity. Thirty-three ILGWU retirement funds are functioning. Of these, 20 have begun to pay benefits.

In New York City the Union Health Center has taken the unprecedented step of extending to ILGWU members unlimited medical service.

In the eastern part of the country, the Eastern Region Retirement Fund is about to begin to pay benefits under an arrangement which covers 50,000 garment workers in shops ranging from Maine to Virginia.

Progress has been made in preserving the retirement rights of members who move geographically or among markets and trades. A system which apportioning payments equitably among the states in which members have belonged during a stipulated period ensures all members against being penalized for "switching" work.

Against this background of expanding services, the proposals of the new Administration in Washington offer an unhappy contrast.

Under the pretense of improving the Social Security System, groups of organized employers, representing the vested interests of the corporations, are urging the federal government to take steps which would endanger the broad benefits of millions of Americans.

They are asking that the increase of payments into the fund be cancelled. That increase, experts agree, is necessary to keep the fund solvent.

They are asking that aid to aged not covered by the Old Age and Survivors Insurance record be paid for from that fund instead of from general funds provided by the federal government to the states.

If enacted, such a program could serve only to restore to American life that fear which the Social Security System was created to remove. For ILGWU members and for other workers, the safeguarding of future welfare remains in maintaining their unions as a strength sufficient to enable them to win constant improvements in welfare terms in each congressional session. It also lies in urging Congress to vigilance in the political arena where politicians are tempted to barter the welfare of citizens for (inevitable) support from other sources.



But We Don't Guarantee the Curves



George Landau, Columbia Pictures star, shows how you can look (if you happen to have legs like that) in the stockings which Local 22, New York Dressmakers, is now selling to aid hosiery workers during hard times. At 75 cents a pair, they're a real bargain. Stockings (unmended) are on sale at 218 W. 40th St. Jo Matur, local educational director, is in charge of sale.

SOUTHEAST'S VEEP LAUDS ILG HOUSING ON N. Y. EAST SIDE

OTHER UNIONS JOIN LOCAL 22 IN SALE OF LABEL HOSIERY

Vice Pres. John B. Martin, who recently returned his drive to the Chattanooga office of the Southeast District after an illness, writes in a letter to Pres. David Dufinsky that the illness was the cause of his failure to attend the ground breaking ceremonies for the ILGWU houses held on New York's East Side last month.

"When I came home from the hospital," Martin writes, "I found in JUSTICE something that gave me a warm comfortable feeling. It was your speech at the dedication of the new ILG houses. You gave us a tremendous kick out of making that speech. What a punch line: 'We drove the sweat shop out and now we return to abolish the sweat shop.'"

"More than forty years ago I carried the 'sweatshop' around in the case of the 'sweatshop' and I know so well those cold water wallkups which were the dirty sweatshops for their living dead. How much you and those there with you must have enjoyed that rubble, seeing the wrecking ball tumble down another wall and watching the bulldozer carve off another slice from a former death trap."

"There must have been hundreds of ILG veterans who came to shed an unashamed tear in memory of the millions of martyred loved ones who didn't make it in the march from Castle Garden to a real America. Unseen in the picture, but surely there, are the spirits of Meyer London, Morris Hilquit, Abraham Cahan and a hundred others who fought the good fight and will deserve sharing with you the glow and the satisfaction which I know you must have experienced. Congratulations for doing this fine job. It has provided me a lot on my way to recovery."

Fight Police

Join the
MARCH OF DIMES Jan. 2-31

HIGH COURT LIMITS STATE INJUNCTIONS AGAINST PICKETING

In a far-reaching decision, the implications of which have nationwide interest, the United States Supreme Court last month ruled that state courts do not have the power to issue injunctions against peaceful picketing when the firm being picketed is engaged in interstate commerce. This decision puts a brake on the free-wheeling issuance of some state courts which lately have been issuing injunctions indefinitely.

ILGWU General Counsel Morris P. Glushkin participated in the preparation of the case, assisting in the writing of the brief which was presented to the high court. The case was argued before the court by Sidney G. Handler, Transmitters attorney and ILG counsel in Pennsylvania.

Focus of the case was the non-union Central Storage and Transfer Co. in Harrisburg, Pa., owned by Joseph Garner. Picket lines established at non-union shops by the ILGWU, among others, had been repeatedly violated by Garner trucks. Finally the Transmitters Union decided to organize the Garner plant and set up picket lines at the company's premises.

Garner immediately applied for a temporary injunction in a lower state court. The injunction was granted. Three years later it was made permanent.

The union was then successful in an appeal to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, which held that state courts cannot enjoin peaceful picketing in a case involving interstate commerce. This decision was upheld by the U. S. Supreme Court, rejecting an appeal by the company. The high court said that Congress had delegated exclusive power to regulate such picketing to the National Labor Relations Board under the Taft-Hartley Act.

Signifying labor's keen interest in the case, briefs supporting the Transmitters' position were filed by the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations. The union's position was also upheld by the National Labor Relations Board, which argued for sole jurisdiction for itself in the matter.

GROUND BROKEN FOR NEW HEADQUARTERS OF MONTREAL UNION

If the measure of an event's importance is the space given to it by local newspapers, then the ground-breaking last month of the new ILGWU building in Montreal was a milestone in that city's labor history. Every newspaper printed pictures and stories about the ceremony, which marked the fruition of many years' efforts by Montreal workers.

Hundreds of members went their lunch hour to attend the affair and were treated to inspiring and laudatory talks by the invited speakers.

Joint Board Manager Claude Jodan was emcee, and Vice Pres. Bernard Shone described the many struggles of the union and the achievements made through the years, pointing to the new building as an indication of the union's factory strength.

Others who spoke were Raoul Trepanier, conciliator for the French Department of Labor, Frank Desnoes, of the Railway and Industrial Clerks Union, Rymann Riel, Montreal manager of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, Onésime Renaud, of the city's leading trades union, Candide Rochefort, member of the Quebec Minimum Wage Board, and H. G. Gendreau, garment industry impartial chairman.

IN THE MARKET

Briton Views U. S. Fashions: Styles 'Adventurous, Clever'

One of the most inclusive illustrations of the American women's fashion picture that we've seen is the following "American Letter" that appeared in a recent issue of the esteemed London publication the Sunday Observer, written by its Washington correspondent, Ernestine Dreier.

A colleague of mine, returning to America after some leave in England, told me that he had incurred the odium of his feminine fellow workers by telling them how much smarter were their American sisters. This is an impression immediately made upon all foreigners, and it is the most impression, both true and false.

The average urban American woman man observed on the streets and in public places certainly produces a smarter mass effect than her counterpart on the streets of an equivalent city in England or the Continent. The lower-income groups are better dressed here; the middle-income groups less well dressed; and the upper brackets are about the same.

As a matter of fact, I do not think that the American woman is "smart" at all—in the shiny-pipe fashion-magazine sense. The attractive effect is much more a look than "chic" or "style." American girls have a dazzling talent for throwing what they have at the shops and "separates" to make a gay, casual, original effect. They are adventurous about color, ingenious with details, clever at careful carelessness.

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In addition there is a high standard of grooming. "Scars" advertising and magnificent plumbing have created a general level of openness; vitamins, sunlight and red meat produce shining hair, perfect teeth and delicious long legs.

The essential product is good; the packaging excellent; the result little appealing. This, of course, produces that immense confidence which has enabled, for example, those who need glasses to insist on their being becoming and amusing, and to wear them with such an air that they have created a special genre style of their own.

In the large cities, in private houses, together with the tourists, one sees the woman who could afford to have her clothes made, out refuses to pay what seem extravagant sums for off-the-peg clothes. It is true that the upper brackets of the wholesale clothes are magnificent, but you can't see a stock size pair between 30 and 42, or 180 and 190, alterations to achieve anything approximating a fit. You also run the risk of seeing yourself coming and going. But as this gives you the same soft income rating as the casual possession of a white milk stool or the latest model motor-car, this is by an indignant rather than a deterrent.

For these women, the great designers for the wholesale trade create an effect of elegant expense. Their (the) designers' inspiration, despite details, come from Paris, but they take details and line rather than swallow whole, and they sail away ideas as the time lag here between Paris and the peg is about six months longer than in England.

There are two reasons for this. One: the American woman does not like to be left; by this slower process she can be persuaded. Two: the American designers having done a first-rate job without the leadership of Paris during the war, are jealous of her return to power. Thus they adapt rather than copy.

Finally, one comes to the really rich women—the elegantes. And they have to be rich to afford the made-to-order clothes by the top American designers, or to buy the "Paris originals" imported by the most expensive specialty shops. These women are wonderfully, breathlessly dressed, adored, fussed, flattered. One can only imagine, because they have bought, paid for, and achieved their object: immutability.

KNITGOODS WORKERS WERE BUSY IN 1953, MANAGER INDICATES

The past year was a good one for the New York knit goods export industry, Vice Pres. Louis Trepanier, manager of Local 150, reports.

Instead of starting the season in June or July, as is usual, mills began operation in January and worked through the winter. New Year's fabric shops, however, had a slow year in general, according to Nelson, who makes of the current winter period, though, Nelson has cautioned knitgoods workers to be doubly on their guard to protect their union interests.

In the bathing suit sector, shops have been in operation for about a month, Nelson indicates, and with some out, a good season is anticipated.

It has been called to the attention of the local office that some of the shops on their own, have made agreements with bosses to work longer than the prescribed number of hours. Workers are advised that they cannot make an independent agree-



Applications Now Taken For New Institute Class

Enrollments are being taken for the 1954-55 class of the ILGWU Training Institute, it is announced by Arthur A. Elder, the Institute's director. Applicants must be under 35 years of age and need not be members of the ILGWU.

The institute will start interviewing applicants in March. The new class is scheduled to start the first week in June, 1954.

Applicants for the ILGWU Training Institute will be provided with a list of their members who are admitted to the school.

Information about the school and the fees involved can be obtained by writing to the ILGWU Training Institute, 1718 Broadway, New York 15, N. Y. or by calling, in that city, COLUMBUS 5-7000.

Raises at Yuletide Add Joys to 300 in Illinois

The Christmas presents which over 300 workers in Illinois received last month won't be under their trees on Christmas Day, but they'll show up in a better place: their pay envelopes. According to terms of settlements reached last month, wage boosts

and the 24-hour work will be granted to employees of four shops: Gracie Peery in Peoria and Chillicothe; Lincoln Garment Co. of Lincoln and Hart Garment Co. of Chicago Heights.

In the first firm, employing 275 workers earning \$1 per hour or more, get a 6 per cent increase; those making less receive 10 cents. Lincoln employees win a 5 per cent increase; newly-organized Hart workers get the same plus another 4 per cent starting Jan. 1, 1954. General Organizer Harry Ruter directed negotiations.

Some 18 workers employed at the Benton, Ill., plant of Jean Claire

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS BEING DISTRIBUTED TO UNION RETIREES

Recently-issued "Life Membership" cards for retired members are being presented to them in special ceremonies throughout the country. In addition to certifying that the retired member is receiving a lifetime pension from the union, the honorary life membership cards, authorized at the 1953 ILGWU convention, guarantee them certain other benefits. These include use of medical services on the same basis provided by locals to active members, enjoyment at Unity House at the same rates charged regular members, and the right to attend local meetings.

Typical of these presentation events is the series of gatherings being arranged by the Cloak Out-of-Town Department. Fifteen members of Local 133, Union City, N. J., will receive their cards at the first of these, on Jan. 4 at the local union office. Guest speakers will include Gus Tyler, ILGWU political director, and civic spokesmen.

The Union City members will be followed by similar convales at each of the Cloak Out-of-Town locals. The meetings will also serve to publicize the union's retirement program.

In a recent letter to all affiliates of the ILGWU participating in retirement funds, Executive Secretary Frederick F. Umhey emphasized that it is of vital importance for the retired member to sign his card where indicated. "Failure to do so may prejudice the member's rights to medical services and other benefits," the letter stated.

The First 40 Are the Toughest

It's just the start of things around Local 94, Children's Dressmakers. That is, if life really begins at 40. Local celebrated its 40th birthday last month with gala affair at Hotel Commodore in New York. Among those present were Executive Secretary Frederick Umhey, Pres. David Dubinsky, Manager Harry Greenberg and AFL Pres. George Meany.

CLOAK OUT-OF-TOWN DOMESTIC, OVERSEAS ACTIONS COMMENDED

Current mail reaching the desk of Vice Pres. George Ruter, manager of the Cloak Out-of-Town Department, reflects the far-reaching constructive activities carried on by the affiliate, both on the domestic and overseas fronts.

Christmas greetings from the European war orphans who have been "adopted" by the department have been pouring in. The children, who receive regular allowances and packages from the department, live in Italy, France, Belgium and Israel. Typical of the letters received is the following from Glori Danilio of Milan, Italy:

"Thank you very much for the monthly allowance which I just received, as well as the beautiful package of food and clothing which will certainly be the finest of my Christmas gifts," he writes. "As you know, I am orphaned, having lost both my parents in the last war. Christmas for me is therefore not as happy as it is for most children. But your very generous care of me for the past several years has done so much to make me feel that someone cares."

"On this Christmas holiday, 1953, please accept my heartfelt thanks to yourself and all of your wonderful members who have done so much for me. As long as I live I shall always remember the garment workers of the Cloak Out-of-Town Department and yourself for your true generosity."

A letter from Governor-elect Robert Meyner of New Jersey expresses appreciation to the department for its members' support in its successful election campaign. Meyner was elected November 3 in a surprise Democratic victory in traditionally Republican New Jersey. Particularly active in the campaign were the business agents of the several COT locals in the state.

Southwest Demands Figures On Kansas City Cloak Wages

Some garment manufacturers have a peculiar sense of right and wrong. In Kansas City, for example, cloak employers think the way to handle a wrong-doing is to file it away and forget about it.

The issue is clear cut: union representatives want an accurate statement of average hourly earnings of cloak workers; the Kansas City Cloak Manufacturers Association turned a deaf ear to this request. The result: the employers are about to be haled before the City's Board of Arbitration.

According to Southeast Region Director Meyer Perlstein, the union specifically wanted earnings data on three shops where piece rates are used. The lowest paid—Piedmont Garment, Styline Manufacturing and Teentowner. The union is fully entitled to this information under the recent collective agreement. Nevertheless, the cloak group's answer was "No." Now the employers will have two charges to answer before the board: "Why are earnings so low?" and "Why are you violating the agreement?"

Cloak Tragedy

Two cloak worker were killed and five injured on Dec. 15 in Kansas City when an elevator carrying 15 workers plunged uncontrollably down four shafts in the Ladies Walters building. The union immediately contacted the members' families to offer all possible assistance.

Annshire Sued

In Pittsburg, Kan., members of Local 505 employed in the Annshire Garment Co. shop have decided to sue the firm for all the claims of their employer, who invariably manages to underpay his workers and deprive some of their vacation pay. Union attorney Howard Sachs has been directed by the Regional Office to file suit in federal court to help the workers' case.

Next Time They'll Be Steamshovels



First shovelful at site of new ILGWU Building in Montreal is turned at ceremony in that city last month. Hundreds of garment workers turned out for event, and pictures and stories were featured in all Montreal newspapers. Left to right: Hyman Rait, manager of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers in Montreal; H. C. Goldenberg, impartial chairman of the ladies' garment industry in that city; (with shovel) Cloakmakers Joint Council Pres. Sam Feiglison; Vice Pres. Bernard Shane, Dressmakers Joint Board Pres. J. O. Guillemette.

Strike Halts L.A. Firms That Balk Pay Increase

Despite an impartial arbitrator's ruling and a defeat in California Superior Court, two Los Angeles cloak firms—Mamelle Modes and Phil of Hollywood—have refused to pay the wage increase won by cloakmakers last November. The result: all workers are now out on strike and production is at a standstill until the bosses are paid.

Just before the current contract was signed with the Los Angeles Coat and Suit Manufacturers Assn., Pacific Coast Director Samuel O. West, the two firms pulled out of the association. This, they thought, "relieved" them of the obligation to pay the bonus called for in the new pact. Their optimism was short-lived.

Cloak Joint Board Manager Isidor Steiner promptly haled them and several other "reluctant" firms before Impartial Chairman Dan West. The companies were ordered not only to give the raise but to add another 50 cents a week for the time the workers had to wait. The total increases were \$4.50 for workers in major crafts and \$3.50 for miscellaneous crafts, retroactive to July 1. The two firms now decided that to pay the increases would subject them to "voluntary servitude," and used this fantastic charge in a suit brought by them in Superior Court. They presented a petition asking for an injunction to prohibit the union from enforcing the contract.

IALC Will Sponsor Round Trip to Italy In Spring for \$475

The Italian American Labor Council has announced it is sponsoring a round trip tour to Italy this spring at the cost of \$475 per person. This tour, designed for union members, will utilize the facilities of World Travel Plan Corp. According to Vanni Montana, who will serve as tour guide, the group of trade unionists making the trip will depart from New York City May 20, with the return scheduled for June 20. The trip will feature three days in Rome, official reception, electricity, etc. Information may be obtained from Vanni Montana, 218 West 46th St., New York City 19, at GL 5-5100.

Judge Frank Swain threw the petition out of court.

Deprived their last recourse, the two shops decided to just play it stubborn. As a result, they now have plenty of empty space inside their shops from which to examine the picket lines outside.

BIG DRIVE UNDERWAY AT CLEVELAND PLANT OF BLOOMFIELD CO.

The big one isn't getting away this time. Ohio-Kentucky Regional Director Nicholas Kirtman last week announced that all shops are out in the drive to organize the Bloomfield Co. plant in Cleveland.

Fifty years of non-unionism—that's the history of this company, but union organizers don't scare easily. What's been happening lately is the union. Not surprising, says Kirtman: "We're in the best position ever. We've got more workers than the '68 ever had. And we've got Bloomfield on the run."

Behind this assertion lie strong facts. Bloomfield's Canton, O., shop has been organized. So has its plant in Massillon. (Both towns now have ILG locals.) And a majority of the Cleveland employees want the union. Not surprising, says Kirtman: "The 'successful' organization of the two outside shops has made a tremendous impact on the thinking of Cleveland workers."

The drive has now progressed to the point where organizers Herb Glendick and Henry Glaser feel free to predict that it's only a matter of time before the Cleveland shop falls. Already efforts are being made to bring the employer to the conference table. Meanwhile the drive goes on without pause. "Fifty years of non-unionism is 50 years too much," says Kirtman. "It's about time the workers got a break."

"Stop and Go"



Strike at Sweet Style Clinches Shorter Week

It took a five-week strike to win a 33-hour week for workers at the Sweet Style Manufacturing Co. of Corona, L. I. During this time, not a single garment was turned out as solid picketing kept production at a standstill.

Finally, the employer, a children's wear manufacturer, realized there was no alternative and capitulated to the union's demand for the shorter work week in an agreement negotiated by Vice Pres. Israel Horowitz, general manager of the Eastern Out-of-Town Department.

The walkout was preceded by three months of fruitless negotiations during which the employer adamantly balked at cutting hours. With talks stalemate, workers voted overwhelmingly in a secret ballot to authorize strike action. When a final offer by Manager Jay Grossman of the Long Island local to reach a settlement failed, picketing started. Sweet Style employees responded 100 per cent to the union's call.

Two attempts at mediation by the New York State Mediation Board proved futile, as the firm stubbornly refused to negotiate on the 33-hour demand. However, on

Nachman Strikers Solid, Talks Fail

(Continued from Page 3) when the entire industry recently granted a wage increase in accordance with an award by Imperial Chairman George Taylor, the company refused to comply. Instead, the firm countered with a demand that the union permit it to operate on union, sub-standard factories outside Philadelphia. If the union would agree to such a clause, the company intimated, then it might consent to a written agreement.

When the union refused to permit this breakdown of standards, the firm retaliated with layoffs and converted much of its production to out-of-town outlets. These actions precipitated the strike.

Since the walkout started, the union has learned that the firm, in violation of its oral agreement for the past year had been sending work to a number of substandard contractors, and had been building a factory in Kew-Forest, N. C., which it planned to operate as a large, open-shop establishment.

'FIGHT FOR RIGHTS' HOLIDAY FETE THEME OF SHIPPING CLERKS

Over 400 dress industry shipping clerks and their families and friends crowded into the open house Christmas party held by the Shipping Clerks' Union, Local 60-A, at Dec. 18 at 801 Eighth Ave.

The theme of the party was "Fight for Your Rights." With many dress presses helping the shipping clerks' arrangements committee, the union hall was decorated, lights subdued and tables arranged as a "cabaret."

The Shipping Clerks' hits, a jazz band consisting of union members led by Don Stiebel, executive board member of Local 60-A, provided the music. Stiebel also served as chairman of the arrangements committee.

The union office was kept open throughout the evening and many shipping clerks joined the union that night.

Paddy Young, outstanding mid-director, who soundly whipped, Paddy Young the night of the party, while the shipping clerks good luck in their organizing drive. Rocky Castellan and Gus Lesnevich greeted the union members. Sandy Badler, famed featherweight, who was on leave from army duty in Germany was introduced, as well as "K. O." Tommy Thompson, a notable heavyweight of earlier days. Thompson is an active member of the Shipping Clerks' Union.

Members of the arrangements committee included Charles Prince, Elmer R. Mohl, Alcy Clarke, Henry Nanton, Incenzo Perot, George Smith, Martin Goldstein, Fred Piquelme, Jay Johnson, Alfred R. Hickson, Al Prince, G. Brewer, John W. Harrison and J. Collins.

Civil Rights Award Given to H. Brides, Head of Mass. AFL

Henry J. Brides, president of the Massachusetts Federation of Labor, was given the Civil Rights Award, "aid, support and encouragement in the fight to wipe out discrimination and prejudice" at the annual conference of the Northeast Region of the Jewish Labor Committee in Dorchester, Mass., on Dec. 13. The award was made by ILGWU Vice Pres. Philip Kramer, honorary chairman of the area's JLC.

In his acceptance, Brides called upon the public schools for an educational crusade to eliminate, at an early age, the prejudices that turn into bigotry in later life.

Allentown Forum's Graduates Termed Bulwark of Progress

Graduating members of the forum group of Local 111, Allentown, Pa., the "Committee of 200," received attendance awards at commencement ceremonies held during the local's annual holiday gathering in Allentown on Dec. 16. Presenting the awards was Vice Pres. David Gingsold, director of the Northeast Department.

According to District Supervisor Leo Greene, all of the graduates whose attendance and participation in the local's monthly forum programs qualified them for commencement awards were given wrist watches bearing the union's initials on the face. About 60 such awards were made.

Director Gingsold called attention to the symbolic nature of the watch and recalled that some non-union employers present watches to "retiring" employees in lieu of pension funds or other financial securities. He termed such a watch a "memento of an ending."

In contrast, he said, the graduation watch marked a beginning—the graduates were now starting to put into practice the knowledge they

Kentucky Conference Shows Union Is Boon to Community

What happens when the union comes to town? Are employers right when they cry that industry is hurt, that business is hampered? Kentucky ILGers answered that charge when they met in conference last month. Their answer: "Everybody gains from the union."

Bridgeport Clockmakers 'Dimes' Dance Jan. 27

A recent turnout of hundreds of clockmakers, their families and friends in Bridgeport, Conn., is expected at the annual dance of Local 141-10 for benefit of the Dimes of Dimes, according to Business Agent Murray Edelstein. The gala event, featuring dancing, entertainment and door prizes, will take place Wednesday evening, Jan. 27, at Bill's Castle Bridgeport.

As in previous years, the entire proceeds go to help combat infantile paralysis.

ALL ILG FUNCTIONS COVERED IN WINDUP OF OQC CURRICULUM

The last phase of the Officers' Qualification Courses — Structure and Functioning of the Union — began on Dec. 21, with subjects slated for discussion covering everything from "The Work of the Management-Engineering Department" to "Politics and the ILGWU Member." Over ten talks in all are scheduled. Educational Director Mark Starr reports.

Two sections of the course, History of the ILGWU and Economics of the Garment Industry, have already been completed. ILG Officers and staff members from all departments and many locals are acting as guest teachers at the various sessions.

The class has also been enlivened frequently by the presence of trade unionists from other countries, who have expressed keen interest in this project. Sol Rosenblatt, impartial chairman of the clock industry, is slated to talk on the work of his office early in March.

High on the list of classes scheduled for the winter and spring season is the Public Speaking Course given by John Fernbach. Though almost all classes held this fall will be continued in the new season, special attention is called to Public Speaking, which was received with the warmest enthusiasm last semester and is shaped to meet very practical needs of members. The class begins on Jan. 4 at 6:15 P.M. in Studio A, 211 Broadway, N. Y.

No Dance for Squares



It takes plenty of energy and enthusiasm to do a good square dance, as these New York underground workers, members of Local 62, are learning. Classes in square and social dancing are part of local's educational program.

"The entire community benefits when the town's workers enjoy the fruits of decent wages, which they spend in local stores and for local services. This is especially true in these small Kentucky communities, where the garment shop is the principal industry." These were the words of Ohio-Kentucky Regional Director Nicholas Kirtzman, delivering the keynote speech at a historic conference in Kentucky last month.

"This meeting did of its kind ever held, gathered together the following cast: representatives of the four ILG locals in Kentucky and a number of workers from the Central Frocks of Lexington, target of an all-out unionizing campaign."

Behind the meeting lay a twofold purpose: to mold plans for an intensive statewide organizing drive, and to weld existing affiliates into a cabaret, union force.

When he declared that unionism benefits, not harms, the community, Kirtzman backed it up with facts and figures. For instance, he said, "garment workers don't have to run to local authorities for health benefits." In the last two years, \$135,000 was paid to garment workers in Kentucky for accident, sick, and surgical expenses. Maternity expenses came to \$18,000.

Kirtzman supplied some other figures. The \$127,240 paid out in vacation benefits to Handmachers-Vogel workers, for example. Eventually, this money goes to the community, in all sorts of purchases which workers make.

There's even a severance benefits fund, which protects workers (and the community when a firm goes out of business. What does all this union-fostered protection mean? "Simply this," said Kirtzman, "instead of calling upon the community to help them in time of need, ILG members actually contribute to the welfare of others."

The conference also went on to chart future paths. Clear-cut resolutions called for wide-open organizing efforts in Kentucky, raising of minimum wages to a key point since so many employers rely on the established minimum for their wage levels and more paid holidays for workers.

William Gensberg and Leo Silberbach, of the ILGWU Management-Engineering Department, gave a special report on the department's work in setting up equitable piece rates in the Kentucky shop and in improving plant functioning to the benefit of both workers and employers.

Miscellaneous Local Jubilees Recall Cutters' Active Roles

Recent celebrations marking the 20th anniversary of the unionization of the New York miscellaneous trades, once known as "NRA babies," are a reminder not only of an historic period in the organizational history of the garment workers but of the leading role played by the Cutters' Union, Local 10.

Prior to 1933 there was hardly a semblance of union organization in such trades as underwear and negligees, corsets, hosiery and children's dresses (although some of them had a militant record of labor struggle in earlier years). There was only a small nucleus of organized cutters, members of Local 10, in some of these trades.

In 1933 Local 10 designated Mordecai Falkman to organize the cutters in the underwear trade. Following an organization drive the employees reached a verbal understanding with Local 10 on union recognition, the 40-hour week, time-and-a-half for overtime and fix and one-half local holidays. For the workers generally, working hours had been up to 60 and wages as

REGULAR MEETING January 25, 1954

low as \$5 a week and no overtime compensation except for "hopper money," usually about 75 cents. This trade was the first of the miscellaneous branches to be hit by the wave of strikes that followed establishment of the NRA in the fall of 1933. The nucleus of organized cutters served as "black troops," spearheading the strike which involved 18,000 workers, including a historic cutters' strike. It resulted in the signing of collective agreements by Undergarment Local 62 and Cutters' Local 10 with the employers, providing for union recognition, a 37½-hour week and higher minimum wage scales.

In view of recent slacker activity in the industry, the Executive Board of Local 10 has decided that no overtime will be permitted in any shop where there is room for an additional worker. In line with this policy there was prohibition of the number of shops and cutters placed on jobs.

Permission for overtime will be granted only if there is no room for an additional cutter in the shop. Manager Falkman was given full power to enforce this decision.

Among the newly organized workers were a number working in corset and bra-making shops who were organized into a separate Local 32, which two years later, under the leadership of Vice Pres. Kreindler, succeeded in organizing the greater part of the trade.

In quick succession there followed a walkout in the children's dress industry, let in all realties in the industry. Several hundred cutters were among the 6,000 workers who entered the children's dress industry. The also won a 37½-hour week and higher wages.

Next to be struck was the blouse trade, where the employers' association fell into line and signed an agreement for a 35-hour week with

a substantial raise in pay. The campaigns in the minor trades had been preceded by large-scale successful strikes in the major cloak and dress trades.

It is from this period that we date the birth of the "NRA babies" which have grown in numbers and have become a very important part of the Cutters' Union—about 2,500 strong. Many of the younger cutters of that period have become experienced, mature trade unionists.

During the past 20 years the cutters in the miscellaneous trades have made extraordinary progress. Living standards have been raised to an extent far beyond the modest hopes and expectations of these early years. The former separate spreader craft was eliminated, being raised to the status of regular employees. Wages have risen and health, vacation and retirement benefits have been won. All cutters in these trades now have a 35-hour work week and six and one-half paid holidays.

As we face the new year with whatever it has in store of potential trouble, let us all realize that we are one union strong, to remain united in trade union comradely, and to safeguard and extend our gains.

Manager Falkman announces that working cards for 1954 for members in all branches are now ready for distribution. Members should apply for them promptly at the office of Local 10.

BOOK FRONT Seidman Tame Studies Labor Wartime Role

Major roles contrasting the American workers are analyzed in three recent volumes. One is a general survey of the progress of organized labor in recent years. The others examine the progress of the good health and fair employment practices for the worker.

THE AMERICAN LABOR FROM DEFENSE TO RECONVERSION (University of Chicago Press, \$5.50) is a sober analysis by Joel Seidman of



how organized labor was affected by the war effort. For the student of labor affairs it presents, in excellent perspective, events that seem fresh to us from the pages of the nation's newspapers.

Seidman, who is author of "The Needs of Workers," analyzes union policy and public reaction in the defense period, in the years of the war and in the reconversion period ending with the passage of the Taft-Hartley Act. His summaries of wartime enactments and policies pertaining to maintenance of union membership, the Little Steel formula and manpower are especially useful.

His book helps provide the answers to why the high demand for industry-labor good will and cooperation that marked the war years did not survive the end of the war. One of the reasons he thinks lay in the way the learning in "that victories won on the economic front might be lost on the political arena by a group that organized to exert maximum political effectiveness."

In *THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT* (Little, Brown and Co., \$3.50) Dr. James Howard Means, for 25 years professor of medicine at the Harvard Medical School and chief of medical services at the Massachusetts General Hospital, challenges the reactionary policies of the American Medical Association. Dr. Means traces the history of efforts to provide the American people with the degree of a social service they need and deserve at fees they can afford to pay. At every turn and at every stage of the AMA stands as the opponent of any change for the better.

Dr. Means examines the various counterproductive policies that he cites the story of AMA opposition to legislation, the battles against co-operations, the attack on any critical surveys as fostering "creeping socialism."

For the layman, it is encouraging to find the doctor, the medical student, doctor, breaking the circle of silence in the medical profession and providing, from the other side, proof of the need for improved health care.

RACE, JOBS, AND POLITICS (Oxford University Press, \$3.75) by Louis Ruchames presents a well documented picture of the effort to win fair employment practices through government intervention. It recounts legislative steps taken toward this end since 1941 and summarizes the degree of success. Ruchames has been active in removing barriers to fair employment for all. Mr. Ruchames calls the high points of legislative progress at Congressional hearings. In telling the story of FEPC he explores the fears and anxieties advanced against it by showing how employment laws have reduced racial tensions, increased economic returns and benefited the morale of the nation by combating prejudice.

FIGHT POLIO!
Join March of Dimes!

HEFFNER AND BAUER HIGHLIGHT PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION DEPT.

The Education-Recreation Center program will reopen on Thursday, Jan. 7 with a talk on "The Ideas of the Contemporary American Democracy and its Unique Place in the Western Civilization." Leading the program will be Richard Heffner, instructor at the New School and editor of the book "Documents in American History."

Dr. Heffner will discuss his discussion the following Thursday. The sessions will be followed as usual by dramatic activities. Classes begin at 6:30 P.M. in Room 504, between 8th and 9th Aves. in Manhattan.

Hunter Talks

The Saturday talks at Hunter College will begin on Jan. 9 with a lecture by Dr. John Bauer on "Security and Insecurity—Man Against Himself."

The following week Dr. Bauer will talk on "What To Do If You Are Troubled—How to Apply for Help." On Jan. 19 an authority in the field of drama will discuss "Eugene O'Neill, His Contributions to the American Theatre."

The Hunter talks are held in Room 1402, 69th St. and Park Ave. beginning at 1:30 P.M. Additional discussions on psychology, the arts, literature, etc. are scheduled for later in the semester.

Paula Cohen, secretary of the Educational Department, reports that the educational season just completed was a very successful one. Members were very judicious about the Education-Recreation Center programs and the interesting talks at Hunter College. Saturday visits to points of interest in the city also came in for high praise.

Local 35 Has Theatre Party Van. 23 for "Fifth Season"

Local 35, New York Cloth Pressers, is running a theatre party on Saturday, Jan. 23 at the Cort Theatre for the amusing comedy about the garment industry, "The Fifth Season," starring Menasha Skolnik. Tickets may be purchased at the Local 35 office, 66 West 33rd St.

**Local 60
SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, JAN. 7
5:30 P.M. at
HOTEL DIPLOMAT
108 West 42nd St.**

Friend of Contract Outstanding Victory for Newmark Members

Newark Local 221's team, managed by Peter Detelsen, scored heavily in negotiations conducted with the Hugo Freund and Son Co., manufacturer of infants' leggings and robes.

Most important gain for the Jersey workers was the reduction in the work week from 40 to 35 hours. Simultaneously with the reduction in hours, piece workers received a compensating increase of 143 per cent, and week workers received the same pay for 35 hours as they previously received for 40. Overtime is paid to both piece and week workers immediately after the daily regular hours.

Other features of the agreement included nine holidays with pay for both week and piece workers, vacation up to three weeks with pay, health, welfare and retirement benefits and all standard provisions of the Eastern Old-Glory Department agreement.

Local 221 also has been active in the field of organization. Added to the ELGWU roster by the local recently was the A and B Clothing Manufacturing Co. of Newark, N. J., a children's wear contractor. whose workers will be covered by the collective agreement in existence with the EOT Department and the New Jersey Washable Dress Contractors' Association.

In Staten Island, Local 154, also managed by Detelsen, organized Marietta Fashions, a dress contractor who has agreed to comply with terms of the collective agreement of the New York Dress Joint Board.

Staff members who participated actively in the organizational drives which resulted in unionization of these shops included Angela Beldere, Virgil Navari, Daniel Kaminker, Lena Aracani and David Davis.

Local 38 Is Sponsoring Class in Social Dancing

A Social Dance Class sponsored by the education department of Local 38, Ladies' Tailors and Custom Dressmakers, will begin on Saturday, Jan. 5 at 5:30 P.M. at local headquarters, and will continue every Tuesday thereafter, it was announced by Laura Wolf, education director.

Members may also register at the union office for the proposed trips to the United Nations on Saturday mornings. Also available are tickets for "Sabrina Fair," starring Marjorie Main and Joseph Cotton. Tickets are priced at \$1.50.

Boston Union Gives 2,500 Toys to Tots At Christmas Fete

More than 2,500 toys were presented by the union to the children who attended the annual Christmas party given by the Northeast Department's Northern New England District for members' children on Dec. 19.

According to District Manager Mary Levin, the 2,500 happy youngsters who filled Boston's John Hancock Hall rated the party a great success. The afternoon's program was highlighted by a concert.

Assisting Manager Levin in arranging the affair was Beatrice Paupert, district educational director.

Italian Cloakmakers Hear Mollisani Report on Trade

A membership meeting of Local 48, held Dec. 22, heard Manager Edward Mollisani report on progress facing the coat and suit industry. The Italian cloakmakers also heard a detailed account of the situation with regard to the industry's retirement fund.

Cloak Examiners' Local 82 Annual Meeting, Jan. 14

A membership meeting of Local 82, New York Cloak Examiners, will be held Jan. 14, right after work, at the Crystal Room of Hotel Diplomat. Manager Charles Bernheim will present his annual report on union and trade conditions.

**Local 117
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 6
after work at
HOTEL DIPLOMAT
108 West 42nd St.**
Report on economic situation
in industry

Cloak Finishers Actively Seeking Work for Jobless

Manager Louis Hyman of Local 9 New York Cloak Finishers, urged members to cooperate actively with the union's efforts to place unemployed finishers on jobs. Hyman's plea was voiced in reporting on economic conditions in the coat and suit industry, at the local's membership meeting held last week.

The local's educational committee has outlined a very interesting program for the coming year. First will be a theatre party on Feb. 13 to see the current production of the famed Yiddish stage group.

The Pioneer Women's Club of Local 9 is arranging a concert on the evening of Jan. 12 in the Council Room of the Cloak Joint Board, 22 West 38th St. Meetings will be extended by General Manager Isidore Nagler, Vice Pres. Louis Hyman, and Secretary Assistant Margaret Max Goldberg and Clara Lerner of the national office of Pioneer Women. Refreshments will be served.

Prayer for the New Year

By MAX PRESS

God bless the people, the homeless
and the lost,
Deny them not this little hour
of mirth;
God bless the lonely, stricken and
lame,
And the enduring little folk of
earth.
And God bless all those brave and
troubled hearts
That, stammered by sorrow, yet go
on,
Whose feet, though stumbling in
the dark of night,
Keep going, waiting, hoping for
the sun.
God bless them, the exiled,
lost in the streets,
And God bless all little people every-
where,
The homeless and the patient and
the sad.
God bless the blind and lame
who stand and bear.
And God bless those who have
nothing at all
But their noble courage and self-
less hands.

JUSTICE

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICE

THE SHOCKING HASTE with which the National Labor Relations Board rushed the representation election on the New York waterfront is one more proof of the justice of labor's charge that in hostile hands the Taft-Hartley law would be transformed from a blackjack into a blunderbuss. The present board, which operates under that law, recently gained two Eisenhower appointees. The result has been a profound change in the tone and temper of its rulings.

After taking the unusual step of journeying to New York to find out for itself, the board set an astonishingly early date for the longshoremen to vote on whether they wished to be represented by an American Federation of Labor union or by the racket-ridden outfit expelled by the AFL last September. The NLRB admitted that this speed was induced by the anguished cries of the ship-owners and the threat of the expelled outfit to call a strike. It gave prior consideration to these, ignoring the pleas of anti-crime forces to provide more time for the longshoremen themselves to fight for an end to gangster rule on the waterfront.

The result was an election held in an atmosphere of terror and violence. Despite this shameful circumstance, the embattled waterfront workers defied the strong-arm lieutenants of the expelled outfit who roamed the areas around the polling places. The slim margin gained by the discredited group in the first count of the ballots was a stunning rebuff to its leaders who, in their confidence that the board's action had strengthened their cause, foretold a landslide victory.

THE OUTCOME OF THE VOTING is not yet clear. What is certain, however, is that organized labor must now contend with a National Labor Relations Board which seems determined to redefine the concept of fair labor practices to bring it closer to the wishes of organized employer groups.

This has been the import of recent rulings by the board. Most notable has been its reversal of the so-called Bonwit Teller doctrine. This had insured fair play for workers in a pre-election period by requiring an employer who addressed his workers on company time and property to provide equal facilities and opportunity for union spokesmen. Now the board has reversed itself, holding that the compulsion for granting equal opportunity to labor served as a gag on employers' free speech.

In recent cases the board has also held that an employer's threat to close or move a plant if workers vote for the union is not necessarily coercive; that it is fair for supervisors to poll workers on their attitude toward the union; that the ban on so-called secondary boycotts may be extended to consumer boycotts; that deliberate dilatory bargaining tactics by company representatives extending over a period of a year do not indicate a refusal to bargain in good faith.

THESE DECISIONS INDICATE the spirit in which the NLRB will continue to rule. They reveal the full evil that has been dormant in the Taft-Hartley Act even during the period in which the board abstained from issuing viciously anti-labor decisions.

They substantiate employer labor's charge that the act requires basic modification to an extent that would justify its repeal. They also are arousing employer groups to a more vigorous defense of the act and its agencies.

The Wall Street Journal reports that "Businessmen are setting up new organizations to see that the law is strengthened, or at least defended against weakening amendments," and names a "high-powered outfit," headed by the president of the General Electric Co., set up in New York last month "to arouse the public to the benefits of a 'balanced' labor law like T-H. . . . In Washington, a half-dozen trade associations are cooperating for the first time to get the law's secondary boycott ban firmed up. . . ."

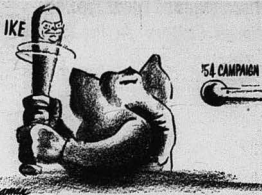
For the nation's workers this is a clear cue that their own organizations must be kept strong. Present indications are that the period ahead is one in which anti-labor forces will seek and more frequently get aid and encouragement from a vindictive anti-labor law and the crew that mans its machinery.

"The Last Mile?"

RACIAL SEGREGATION
IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



"Batter Up!"



Causes of Industrial Peace

By the National
Planning Association

Excerpts from National Planning
Assn. report based on seven-year
study of union-management rela-
tions in 26 firms.

THE most important psychological factors influencing labor-management harmony are certain broad attitudes and beliefs possessed by both sides.

First among the four significant attitudes of management that enhance industrial peace is genuine acceptance of collective bargaining, and of the union institution, as permanent and large factors in the successful operation of the enterprise.

Acceptance of collective bargaining involves far more than mere "recognition" of the union. In cases studied, employers saw positive advantages in bargaining with a strong and well-disciplined union.

SECOND, related to this positive acceptance of collective bargaining is a willingness to adapt to somewhat different characteristics of the union from those of management organization. Generally speaking, the influence of the members of a union upon its leadership tends to be more direct than the influence of employees of a company upon its leadership.

Top management, on the other hand, usually has authority, within rather wide limits, to enter into agreements which are binding upon the company.

Unions, to a considerably greater extent than company managements, are "political" organizations. If the manager approaches the collective bargaining relationship with the belief that the union must deal with him as a supplier or a customer would, he is heading for certain disillusionment and he will force the union into defensive reactions of an unhappy character.

A THIRD fundamental attitude is top management's acceptance of personal administration—the management of the human organization—as "top drawer" responsibility of every member of line as well as staff management.

The necessary attitude is one in which high level of competence is demanded from all members of management in dealing with people, and in which those who cannot develop this competence are replaced.

A fourth important set of attitudes of management are those toward people generally, and toward subordinates in particular. These include a genuine concern for their welfare, a recognition of

their needs and feelings; also, a clear recognition that workers are people and that "labor" is not a commodity which can be purchased and manipulated as can the other elements of the production process.

TURNING to the attitudes of union leaders and members in healthy relations:

Union leaders may view the role of the union in collective bargaining as that of a protest organization, almost that of a partner with management, or, more commonly, that of policing or "regulating" the company. This attitude implies acceptance of the company and a recognition of management's objectives in running the business profitably.

Understanding management's responsibilities to the owners is another union attitude which contributes to industrial harmony. But if management's attitude is to consider this responsibility as a sacred right, to refuse to discuss or bargain about anything connected with a rigidly defined "management right to manage the business," union suspicion and antagonism will almost certainly be generated.

An attitude of union confidence in management seems also to be an essential ingredient of good human relations under collective bargaining. This attitude is in part characterized by the absence of fear of management.

Union leaders in healthy union-management relationships normally do not fear arbitrary action by management, or management indifference to worker welfare or management antagonism to collective bargaining. If union leaders fear management in any of these respects, their behavior will be defensive and often hostile.

IT is important to remember that the use of force in the event of failure to agree has been potentially present in every relationship studied. To be sure, in the more successful kinds of relationships there are fewer strikes, but the absence of industrial warfare does not mean that differences no longer exist between labor and management. In fact, the very essence of collective bargaining is the resolution of differences.

In the more harmonious types of relationships, the parties have become skillful in reaching intelligent compromises which are acceptable to both.